

FISCAL NOTE

HB 3063 - SB 3220

March 19, 2006

SUMMARY OF BILL: Permits every four-year public high school to offer elective courses in the history and literature of the old testament era and the new testament era. Directs the State Board of Education to adopt curriculum for the instruction of each course before February 1, 2007. The book or collection of books known as the Old Testament and New Testament shall serve as the basic texts for the courses.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$24,000 One-Time

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - \$787,500 Recurring/Permissive
\$27,000–\$394,000 One-Time/Permissive**

Assumptions:

- The cost to the Department of Education and the State Board of Education for the development of a program of instruction and curriculum for the two new courses is estimated to be approximately \$24,000. Since there is no current base curriculum, additional meetings would be necessary to develop this curriculum framework.
- It is unknown how many LEAs would choose to offer the new curriculum. These courses could potentially be offered in 360 high schools. If one-fourth of these high schools offer the courses, then approximately 90 high schools could offer the courses one semester per year.
- The courses would be half-credit and would be offered at a minimum of once per year for approximately 30 students in each class.
- A teacher for one period per day at \$8,750 (based on a salary of \$52,500 including benefits) would be required at a minimum for LEAs electing to offer the two courses. The annual teacher cost is estimated to be approximately \$787,500.
- Since LEAs already have textbooks and materials for existing electives, it is assumed that LEAs would need to purchase Bibles or supplemental textbooks for a one-time cost. LEAs would fund this cost since textbooks would not have a textbook review process.
- The Bible would be the primary text for the course. The cost of a Bible ranges greatly, but a low estimate would be \$5.00 per book according to the International Bible Study, who sells the Bible in bulk.

- The bill provides that additional materials may be included in the courses. If LEAs supplemented the courses with a Bible textbook such as *The Bible and Its Influences* or similar textbook (\$50-\$73), costs would rise significantly.
- The cost of a Bible or supplemental textbooks would be incurred by the LEAs the first year, with such expenditure being included in the BEP funding formula in the second year and thereafter.
- If Bibles can be purchased at \$5.00 each, the cost to offer the two courses for one semester per year for 30 students in 90 schools is estimated to be a minimum \$27,000 up to a maximum of \$394,000 for a textbook costing \$73.00 each.
- No additional classroom space would be required.
- Some elective courses currently offered *may* be eliminated due to scheduling and demand, thereby equalizing expenditures.
- The LEA would fund professional development, additional course materials, and resource materials, etc. within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director